



PRESS RELEASE

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EMPIRE DISTRICT LAUNCHES LED STREET LIGHTING PILOT IN REPUBLIC

JOPLIN, MO – January 13, 2015 – Empire has launched a pilot project to evaluate the use of energy efficient LED (light emitting diode) street lighting. Republic city officials will join Empire to mark the launch of the project at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, at Pine Avenue and East Elm Street. The city of Republic is one of five communities in the Empire service area to be included in the pilot project, with lights installed along East Elm Street from Pine to Fountain Avenue.

According to Brent Baker, general manager of Customer Service, Transmission and Engineering at Empire, “This pilot project is an important step in evaluating the potential benefits of LED lighting technology and determining the feasibility of broader deployment on our system.”

The pilot will take place over a two-year period. In addition to Republic, the project includes installations in Branson, Neosho, Ozark and Webb City.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE: EDE) is an investor-owned, regulated utility providing electricity, natural gas (through its wholly owned subsidiary The Empire District Gas Company), and water service, with approximately 217,000 customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. A subsidiary of the Company also provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit www.empiredistrict.com.

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